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ZIRKELITE — A QUESTION OF PRIORITY.

In the *Mineralogical Magazine*, Vol. XI, pp. 86–88 (read June 18, 1895) is described a new mineral containing zirconium, titanium, lime, iron, etc., under the name of Zirkelite. This paper was prepared by my friend, Dr. E. Hussak, and by Mr. C. T. Prior. Later Mr. Prior (*loc. cit.* pp. 180–183, read Nov. 17, 1896) published an analysis of the same mineral.

I wish to protest against the use of the name Zirkelite for this mineral on the ground of the prior use of it to designate a commonly occurring rock belonging to the basaltic family.

When two subjects are so intimately connected as mineralogy and petrography it does not seem to be for the interest of science that names should be duplicated in them. So true is this that I abandoned the name Rosenbuschite, which I had given to a class of rocks in honor of Professor Rosenbusch, because only a few weeks previously it had been employed to designate a new mineral.

The term Zirkelite was used by me in 1887, or seven years before it was taken by Messrs. Hussak and Prior. (See Preliminary Description of the Peridotites, Gabbros, Diabases, and Andesites of Minnesota, *Bulletin No. 2*, Geological Survey of Minnesota, 1887, pp. 30–32.) It was used to designate the commonly occurring altered conditions of basaltic glassy lavas which are often called diabase glass, etc. Zirkelite occurs forming the entire mass of thin dikes, and the exterior parts of many dikes of diabase and melaphyre, as well as the surface of old lava flows like the melaphyres and diabases of Lake Superior, Newfoundland, and elsewhere. Zirkelite holds the same relation to tachylite that diabase and melaphyre do to basalt, *i. e.*, an older and altered type. The macroscopic and microscopic characters of this rock were given in the locality cited above.

The term Zirkelite was again used in the same way in my *Report of the Geological Survey of Michigan* for 1891–2 (1893, pp. 90, 97, 138, etc.).

It was also published in my classification of rocks given in the *Catalogue of the Michigan College of Mines* (Michigan Mining School), 1891–2, p. 104; 1892–1894, Table XI; 1894–1896, Table XI.

Further the term Zirkelite is defined in accordance with my usage in Lewinson-Lessing's *Petrographisches Lexikon*, 1893, p. 252); and accounts of it are given in the *Neues Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*, 1893, II, p. 292, and in Kemp's *Handbook of Rocks*, 1896, p. 170.

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December 17, 1897.

[The prior use of the name *Zirkelite* is certainly established, but it is a question how far a petrographer is justified in stigmatizing the name of a fellow worker by attaching it to an indefinitely decomposed and ill-defined rock.—J. P. I.]